

is not the correct path. Fiscal restraint should guide us, not the irresponsibility we saw in the 1980s. I would ask my colleagues to reject this rascality and vote no on this bill.

ELIMINATE PENALTY FOR
CITIZENSHIP

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 12, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, on January 3, 2001, I introduced H.R. 133 to correct

an unintended consequence where a petitioner seeking a visa for her children to come to the United States loses her place in line if she changes her status from legal resident to U.S. citizen.

This problem primarily affects Filipinos because of the huge backlog in the quota for unmarried sons or daughters of American citizens from the Philippines. It is longer than that of unmarried sons and daughters of lawful permanent residents.

Such a consequence penalizes people for becoming a citizen.

Imagine how devastating it is for a petitioner to become an American citizen, only to find

that this significantly delays your child's entry date to enter the United States. It is heartbreaking to have to inform constituents of this sad consequence of their becoming a U.S. citizen.

I am forced to advise petitioners not to apply for citizenship to avoid this penalty.

As a legal resident, remember they could lose many benefits such as Medicaid. To be reunified with their children, the law, unless changed, forces them to risk much.

Please join me in changing this inequitable outcome by the enactment of H.R. 133.